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FOR RELEASE: 13 May 1971

92-279

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The sad and foolish effort by protesters against the war in Vietnam to "stop the government" by disrupting Washington traffic predictably failed. A great job was done by the District Police Department, which had to arrest several thousand of the demonstrators, mostly youthful, in order to keep Washington open. Most of those participating in the demonstrations came from cities along the Eastern Seaboard, according to a survey made by a Washington newspaper, and I must say they appeared to be a far cry from the kind of young people we are accustomed to seeing in South Texas. They were here to cause trouble and they did cause trouble, mostly for themselves.

One thing they did was to turn some sections of the Nation's Capital, beautiful with springtime flowers, into a mess. They did this by strewing garbage in the streets and littering parks and sidewalks with paper. How anyone can think such activities constitute an effective protest against the war is more than I can understand.

* * *

INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS -- A catalog index entitled Consumer Product Information, just published by the Federal government, lists 211 selected low-cost publications of direct interest to consumers and published by various government agencies. Subjects in the 16-page booklet literally range from A to Z--from appliances to zippers. One publication listed gives a comparison of braking performance for 1971 passenger cars. Others tell how to be a good shopper, give guides for family budgeting, and explain sewing techniques that can be used to make clothes last longer. The variety of subjects is wide.

The catalog tells where each publication can be ordered and lists the price. The index itself is free, and I will be happy to send a copy to anyone requesting it. Just ask for "Consumer Product Information".

* * *

FARM LABOR HOUSING -- Another activity of the Farmers Home Administration, an agency with which South Texans are quite familiar, is the providing of insured loans and grants to finance low-rent housing for domestic farm laborers.

The loans and grants may be used to build, improve, buy, or repair farm labor housing, including facilities for kitchens, dining halls, and appropriate health and recreational facilities. Funds may also be used to buy land on which labor housing projects will be located.

A loan may be made to a farm owner, an association of farmers, a State or political subdivision, or a nonprofit organization. A grant may be made to a State or

political subdivision that intends to provide labor housing as a community project. Eligibility of applicants for either loans or grants is determined by a three-member local county committee of the Farmers Home Administration. Housing built under this program may include single family units, apartments, or dormitory type units.

* * *

MACE -- Not the chemical sometimes used to control rioters but the sort of club that represents a symbol of authority in the House of Representatives is what I am talking about.

The first session of the First Congress, which convened in New York on March 4, 1789, adopted a resolution providing that "A proper symbol of office shall be provided for the Sergeant at Arms, of such form and device as the Speaker shall direct, which shall be borne by the Sergeant when in the execution of his office." The symbol approved by the first Speaker, Frederick A. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania, was the mace.

Originally used as a weapon, the mace through many years became a symbol of authority and power. In the House of Representatives, on a few occasions in the past when a member threatened to get out of control, the Speaker directed the Sergeant at Arms to lift the mace from its pedestal and "present" it in front of the turbulent person. Every time it was done order was promptly restored. This evidently is a symbol that works.

The present mace, the third to be used, dates back to 1841. Forty-six inches in height, it consists of 13 ebony rods, representing the 13 original States of the Union, bound together at the top and bottom by engraved silver rings. The top ring has protruding from it a silver globe with a detailed drawing of all seven continents. The globe is surmounted by an eagle with outspread wings, engraved from solid silver. It is all quite impressive.

SIGN OF PROGRESS -- Twenty years ago, 26 per cent of all Americans 18 through 21 years of age were in institutions of higher education. Today, 47 per cent of this age group are enrolled. This is one of the many great things about our country in which we can take pride. It is a good time to accentuate the positive.

* * *

VISITORS -- Visiting my office this week were Mr. and Mrs. H. Lee Richards, and Mr. Jack Skaggs, all from Harlingen; Mr. and Mrs. William C. Cain, of Progreso; Mr. Alex W. Gabert and Dr. Gilberto Garza, both of Rio Grande City; and Mr. Alejandro Moreno of San Juan.

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